

Claims

1. A housing assembly for an electronic apparatus including first and second housing portions for connection to each other and a release member positionable in a recess in the first housing portion, said release member including a cam that protrudes from the recess on rotation of the release member to engage the second housing portion and separate the second housing portion from the first housing portion.

2. An assembly according to claim 1, wherein the cam is configured so that progressively more of it protrudes from the recess as the release member is rotated.

3. An assembly according to claim 2, wherein the release member includes an attachment for releasably mounting it to the first housing portion.

4. An assembly according to claim 3, wherein said first housing portion includes an aperture to receive the attachment on the release member.

5. An assembly according to claim 4, wherein the attachment comprises a lug on the release member, the aperture in the first housing portion being shaped to receive the lug, the lug engaging the first housing portion to mount the release member thereto on rotation of the release member after insertion of the lug through the opening.

6. An assembly according to claim 5, wherein the cam protrudes from the recess to force the first and second housing portions apart when the release member is rotated back to the orientation in which it was inserted.

7. An assembly according to claim 6, wherein the opening is located in the base of the recess.

8. An assembly according to claim 7, wherein a resilient compressible washer is located in the recess against the base.

9. An assembly according to claim 8, wherein the underside of the base includes a plurality of dimples thereon, the lugs passing over the dimples when the release member is rotated to releasably mount it to the first housing portion.

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10. An assembly according to claim 9, wherein the release member is configured such that the lugs clear the dimples when the release member is pushed downwardly to compress the washer before rotating the release member to attach it to the first housing portion, the resilience of the washer biasing the lugs into contact with the base when the force is removed, the dimples preventing further rotation of the release member.

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11. An assembly according to claim 1, wherein the cam is a flange on the release member having an angled cam surface for engagement with the second housing portion on rotation of the release member.

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12. An assembly according to claim 11, wherein the cam surface is annular and the release member includes a cylindrical portion extending from the flange.

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13. An assembly according to claim 12, wherein an aperture is formed in the cover, the diameter of the aperture being substantially equal to the diameter of the cylindrical portion so that the cylindrical portion is received in the aperture when the second housing portion is placed over the first housing portion and the cam surface.

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14. An assembly according to claim 13, wherein a boss protrudes from the cylindrical portion of the release member.

15. An assembly according to claim 14, wherein the boss has an aperture therethrough to receive a wrist strap.

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16. An assembly according to claim 1 comprising a mobile telephone communications apparatus.

17. An assembly according to claim 16, wherein the first housing portion is a rear case of a mobile telephone housing and the second housing portion is a cover attached to a portion of the rear case of the mobile telephone housing, the telephone also including a front case attached to the rear case.

18. An assembly according to claim 17, wherein the release member is disposed in a recess in the rear case of the mobile telephone housing, the release member being operable to separate the cover from the rear case.

19. A method of separating two housing portions in a housing assembly according to claim 1, comprising the steps of rotating the release member such that the cam means protrudes from the recess and separates the second housing portion from the first housing portion.